

Dexter City Update

Fall 2020

Volume 6, Issue 2

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Fall and Winter Leaf Collection

Each Fall, the City of Dexter Department of Public Works (DPW) collects loose leaves. This is in addition to bagged compost collection by Waste Management and the DPW's weekly brush pick-up. Leaf collection for Fall 2020 will start the week of October 12th. For the past few years, we have noticed that the leaves from the pear trees and oak trees, mostly located in the newer neighborhoods, have been losing their leaves later in the season. To accommodate this, we have created the following schedule for loose leaf and bagged compost collection. Residents are encouraged to sign up for the e-mail update to keep informed about any changes in this schedule due to the weather.

Collection Schedule

- Week of October 12th – Loose leaf collection starts.
- November – Brush pick-up and chipping switches to every other Wednesday. The November dates are November 11th and November 25th.
- Monday, November 30, 2020 – Last day of bagged compost pick-up by Waste Management.
- Week of December 7th – Loose leaf collection ends. Residents are asked to have all leaves raked to the curb no later than Monday, December 7th at 7 am for pick up that week.
- Bagged leaves will be picked up by the DPW while they are doing brush pick-up on December 23rd, January 6th, and January 20th. This is to accommodate the residents whose trees lose their leaves late in the season.
- No compost bag or leaf pick-up by the City or Waste Management will occur in February or March
- Monday, April 5, 2021 - Bagged compost collection resumes.

Loose Leaf Collection Reminders

- Park cars as far away from leaf piles as possible.
- Make sure that there is no debris in the leaf piles (garbage, sticks, etc.).
- Leaves should be raked in a line (windrow) as close to the curb as possible and not placed into the road, ditches, storm drains or parking places.
- The closer the piles are to the curb, the quicker they are able to be collected by the equipment.

Fall Clean-Up Day
will be
October 19th



Halloween & Trick-Or-Treating

Halloween is not a City sanctioned event, but rather a national holiday. The City's formal involvement in Halloween is limited to setting suggested Trick-or-Treat hours. For those that choose to participate this year, Trick-or-Treat hours in the City will be from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Saturday, October 31, 2020.

If you or your family choose to celebrate Halloween this year, please review the guidelines below set by the CDC related to COVID-19:

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

Lower Risk Activities

- Carving/decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them, or carving outside
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children search for Halloween-themed items
- Virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with

Moderate Risk Activities

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while social distancing
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are separated more than 6 feet
- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with family and friends with people spaced at least 6 feet

High Risk Activities

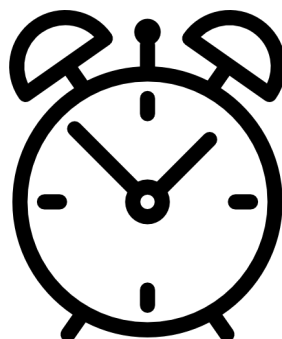
- Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door-to-door
- Having trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in parking lots
- Attending crowded costume parties held indoors
- Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming
- Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household
- Using alcohol or drugs, which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors
- Traveling to a festival that is not in your community

For additional safety guidelines related to Halloween and other fall and winter holidays, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>

City Office Closure

The City Offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on November 26th and November 27th. There will be no trash delay that week or the following week.



Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time will end at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 1, 2020. Remember to set your clocks back one hour. This is also a good time to test/change smoke detector batteries and exercise your water shut off valves (see the City's Winter 2019 Newsletter for more information on how to do this).

Elections

The City of Dexter will be hosting a General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Currently 53% of registered voters in the City have requested an absentee ballot. It is anticipated that absentee ballots will be mailed the week of September 21, 2020.

The polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm on Election Day for in person voting. To view a copy of the sample ballot please visit - <http://www.michigan.gov/vote>. Precincts 1 & 3 are located at Dexter Senior Center (7720 Ann Arbor St); Precinct 2 is located at St. Andrew's Church (7610 Ann Arbor St).



Registering to Vote

If you have recently moved to Dexter, or are planning to move out prior to the November Election, please make sure to update your voter registration as soon as possible. We have heard that appointments for the Secretary of State are being scheduled out into December 2020. Typically, voter registration is updated when the driver's license is updated. To easily update your registration (and in many cases receive a sticker for your driver's license since the two databases are connected) you can visit the City Office at 8123 Main, 2nd Floor or the local clerk's office in your new community. At the City of Dexter, no appointment is necessary - the hours are 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

The City of Dexter is NOT able to issue new driver's licenses for residents who have moved from out of state or have an expired license.

Below are important dates to keep in mind:

- Saturday, October 31, 2020 – The City Offices will be open from 9 am – 5 pm to process absentee ballot requests.
- Monday, November 2, 2020 – Absentee ballots are available from 9 am to 4 pm however they must be requested in person and voted at the City Office.
- Tuesday, November 3, 2020 - Absentee ballots must be returned to the City Office (8123 Main - 2nd floor of the PNC Bank) by 8 pm on Election Day to be counted.

Below are some pieces of information and suggestions as we prepare for this election:

- Drop boxes are available 24 hours next to the door to the Sheriff's Substation at 8140 Main St. and outside the City Office (PNC Bank Building) at 8123 Main St.
- To view a sample ballot, verify your polling location, or request an absentee ballot, please visit - www.michigan.gov/vote. Additionally, a full list of candidates and proposals is available on the Washtenaw County Elections website at: <https://www.washtenaw.org/304/Elections>. If you have any questions, please contact the City Office at 734-426-8303.
- If you would like to check to see if your ballot has been received by our office please visit <http://www.michigan.gov/vote>.
- If you know of a friend or family member that will be out of town or going away to college who would like to vote in November, please have him or her request an absentee ballot immediately.
- If you did not vote in the Primary, please check to make sure you know your polling location. This can be done by visiting www.michigan.gov/vote.
- Please keep in mind that it is against State of Michigan election law for the Clerk to give an absentee ballot over the counter to someone other than the person whose name is on the ballot.

Questions about any of the above items can be directed to City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Justin Breyer at 734-580-2234 or jbreyer@dextermi.gov.

Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival Online Sale

The Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival was held from Monday, August 17th - Friday, August 21st. The City had 45 participating artists for this year's Festival. The pieces produced through the week, along with some pieces from previous Paint Dexter Plein Air Festivals have been posted for sale online. The City has partnered with the Arts Alliance through their Creative Washtenaw Marketplace site to host the online sale. The artwork sale is available at: <https://creativewashtenaw.org/marketplace/dexterpleinaircwmarketplace/>

Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission is working on an update to the City's 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. As a means of gathering public input, and in light of COVID-19, the Commission will host an online public input meeting the evening of Tuesday, October 13, 2020 beginning at 6:00pm. To view a copy of the current plan visit – https://www.dextermi.gov/government/boards_and_commissions/pr.php.

The Parks and Recreation Commission Public Input Meeting will be held via Zoom. To access the Zoom meeting, please visit: <https://zoom.us/j/91743714617>, or call 888-788-0099 (Meeting ID: 917 4371 4617#).

Monument Park Storytelling Event

The Arts, Culture, and Heritage Committee will be hosting a virtual storytelling event on Saturday, October 17th at 6:00pm via Zoom. The topic of the storytelling event is Monument Park. The Committee is accepting submissions for presentations of stories, poems, favorite memories, and intergenerational interviews. The first review of submissions will be Monday, September 21st. View the Call for Submissions at: https://www.dextermi.gov/Community/Arts_Culture_Heritage/Virtual_Storytelling_Event/Call_for_Submissions_Final.pdf to learn more. To sign-up to present, please complete the Google Form at: <https://forms.gle/4jPevaKo4BJ6TFLk6>.

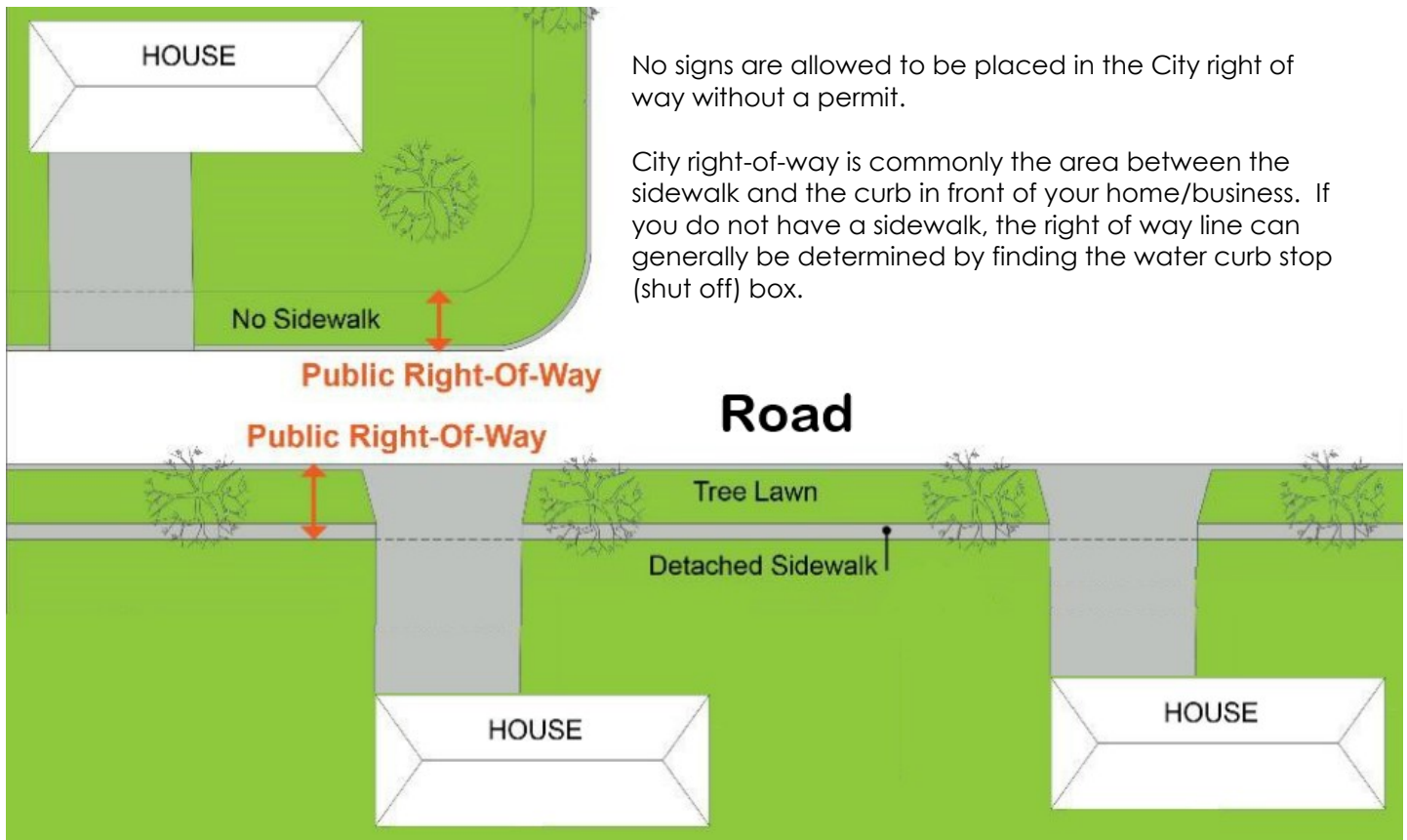
The virtual Storytelling Event will be held via Zoom. To access the Zoom meeting, please visit: <https://zoom.us/j/94886452629>, or call 888-788-0099 (Meeting ID: 948 8645 2629#).

How An Ordinance Is Adopted

The following is a general description of the process used to adopt an ordinance in the City.

- Ideas for new ordinances or updating existing ordinances can come from either staff, a Council Member or a member of the public.
 - If City Council agrees that it is something that should receive further attention, staff works on creating a draft of the new ordinance or the ordinance update.
 - City staff conducts research on options, including a review of similar ordinances in other communities.
 - The draft ordinance is presented to City Council for discussion and direction.
 - At a regular meeting, City Council sets a public hearing date regarding the ordinance, typically at a meeting one month following the date where the public hearing was set.
 - A public hearing notice including a synopsis draft ordinance is published in the City's Paper of Record, placed on the website and sent out via the e-mail update.
 - City Council holds a public hearing to hear to take public comment on the draft ordinance.
 - Council then decides whether to approve the ordinance.
 - If it is adopted, the ordinance is published in the City's Paper of Record and is effective upon publication.
- Current ordinances under review include updates to the water and sewer ordinances and the potential adoption of ordinances dealing with conflict of interest and rental inspections.

Signage in the Right-Of-Way



No signs are allowed to be placed in the City right of way without a permit.

City right-of-way is commonly the area between the sidewalk and the curb in front of your home/business. If you do not have a sidewalk, the right of way line can generally be determined by finding the water curb stop (shut off) box.

Trash Reminders

July was the one-year anniversary of the use of trash toters throughout the City. We appreciate everyone's cooperation through the transition. As a reminder, Waste Management will only pick up what is inside the toter. Please do not stack trash/recycle around the toters. One large item can be set out for pick up on the first Monday of each month.

The City also offers Spring and Fall Clean-Up Days. This year's Fall Clean-Up Day is Monday, October 19th. This is an opportunity for expanded collection of trash, appliances, and other bulky items. The following additional guidelines apply: 1) All loose material must be contained. 2) Appliances and bulky items are limited to what two people can safely lift; 3) Items must not contain hazardous materials such as freon; and 4) Construction debris is prohibited. Please have all items to the curb by 6 am. Visit https://www.dextertermi.gov/government/departments_and_services/trash_recycling_and_yard_waste.php for additional bulk collection and general waste disposal information.

Crossing Guards

The City of Dexter is responsible for hiring and training school crossing guards within the City. We are always looking for residents who are interested in serving in this capacity, even if it is just filling an occasional shift. Crossing guards earn \$13.50 per shift. Training will be provided. For more information or to apply for the position please contact the City Office at 734-426-8303 or e-mail cnicholls@dextertermi.gov.

Mill Creek Park Trail Ribbon Cutting

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we are unable to have a traditional ribbon cutting ceremony for the beautiful new extension of the Mill Creek Park Trail. The trail is now open and extends from the previous end of the trail at the foot of Grand Street, along Mill Creek to just north of Creekside School. We hope that everyone gets a chance to visit this new community asset – while maintaining proper social distancing.



Traffic Safety Reminders

The City is receiving increased complaints about cars speeding and rolling through stop signs. It is essential for the safety of both drivers and pedestrians for everyone to obey the speed limits and stop completely for stop signs.

- Motorists must yield to pedestrians within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is in or near the same half of the street as the driver, even if the RRFB is not activated. Drivers can choose to stop to allow a waiting pedestrian cross, but it is not required regardless of the presence of a rapid flashing beacon.
- Drivers must always be prepared to stop at all marked intersections.
- Be alert and reduce speed in areas with crosswalks.
- Do not drive distracted, including talking or texting on your phone.
- Yield, slow down or stop if necessary if a pedestrian is crossing within a crosswalk.
- Drivers should not assume a pedestrian's intent at a crosswalk, come to a stop and err on the side of caution.
- Never pass a vehicle that is stopped at a crosswalk.

Speed Limits

All roads in the City of Dexter are 25 miles per hour with the following exceptions:

- Baker Rd. (30 mph)
- Dan Hoey Rd. (35 mph, except in School zone during designated hours)
- Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd. between Meadow View Rd. and Dan Hoey Rd. (35 mph)

School Crossing Reminder

The City and Dexter Community Schools worked together to designate four school crossings that have received enhancements, including rapid flashing beacons, to assist students as they cross to access the school campus. The four crossing areas that received the enhancements are listed below.

- **Ann Arbor Street just west of Kensington**
- **Dan Hoey near Lexington**
- **Dan Hoey near Walkabout Creek.**
- **Baker Road at the Pedestrian Island**

Please carefully watch for crossing pedestrians in these areas, especially at school arrival and dismissal times.



Paper of Record

The City's paper of record for public notices is now be the Ann Arbor News (Mlive), which publishes every Thursday and Sunday. Public notices are also included in the e-mail update and on the City website.

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office Alert System Information

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office has upgraded their Nixle program to the Everbridge Alert system to communicate with citizens and businesses during emergencies and other critical events. Anyone living or working in Washtenaw County is encouraged to register to receive these alerts at www.washtenaw.org/alerts.

COMING SOON - More Payment Options At Your Fingertips!

Later this year, the City will be launching an advanced electronic billing and payment solution for the payment of utility bills and property taxes. The new service will bring a user-friendly online payment portal enabling customers to view and pay bills, schedule one-time and automatic payments, securely store payment information for later use, review up to 24 months of past bills (as they become available), and enroll in paperless billing. Email notifications will be sent when the bill is ready to view, just before the due date and when a scheduled payment is pending. Creating an account is recommended, however, it is not necessary to view bills and make a payment.

For utility bills, a pay by phone option will available 24/7 - a quick alternative for customers who may not be interested in going online. With Pay by Text, customers can stay informed by receiving text notifications about their bill and additionally have the option to respond via text message to make a payment using their default payment method. Customers can enroll in Pay by Text when making an online payment or within their online account. Tax payments will now be eligible for auto-pay and Pay by Text.

Access to your accounts, e-billing and reminders are free of charge. Convenience fees will be assessed on credit card payments(3.25%), electronic check payments (\$2.95) and auto-pay (\$0.95).

More Payment Options At Your Fingertips

Convenient features allow you to manage your account anywhere, at anytime.



AutoPay

Pay automatically
on the due date



Paperless Billing

Replace your paper
bills with eBills



Pay by Text

Get text notifications about your bill and
have the option to reply to the text to pay
with your default payment method



Check your next utility and tax bill for details!

City of Dexter
8123 Main St
Dexter MI 48130
(734) 426-8303

Mayor:
Shawn Keough

Council Members:
Scott Bell
Paul Cousins
Donna Fisher
Julie Knight
Zach Michels
James Smith

City Staff
Courtney Nicholls
City Manager
Justin Breyer
Clerk & Asst to City Manager
Michelle Aniol
Community Development
Mike Auerbach
Assistant Planner
Dan Schlaff
Public Utilities Superintendent
Marie Sherry
Treasurer/Finance Director/
Assessor
Carol Jones
Recording Secretary

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PAID PERMIT NO. 100
DEXTER MICHIGAN

The City Offices are located at 8123 Main St, 2nd Floor, above the PNC Bank. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Elected Officials:

Mayor
Shawn Keough: SKeough@DexterMI.gov (313) 363-1434
Council Members
Scott Bell: SBell@DexterMI.gov (734) 646-5465
Paul Cousins: PCousins@DexterMI.gov (734) 548-3293
Donna Fisher: DFisher@DexterMI.gov (734) 649-5169
Julie Knight: JKnight@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-4961
Zach Michels: ZMichels@DexterMI.gov (734) 726-0616
Jim Smith: JDSmith@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8885

Staff:

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Treasurer/Finance/Assessor: MSherry@DexterMI.gov (734) 580-2231
Community Development: MAniol@DexterMI.gov (734) 580-2233
Assistant Planner: MAuerbach@DexterMI.gov (734) 580-2235
Utility Billing: EAiken@DexterMI.gov (734) 580-2232
Administrative Assistant: BTuscano@DexterMI.gov (734) 580-2230
Public Works: KAugustine@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8530
Public Utilities: DSchlaff@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-4572

Utilities After Hour Emergencies: (734) 368-5212

City E-Mail Update

Interested in timely Dexter News?
Sign up for the email list by emailing
the City Manager at
CNicholls@DexterMI.gov

Virtual Meetings

The City will continue to use the Zoom virtual meeting platform for public meetings until the expiration of the Governor's State of Emergency. Information on logging into or calling into the meetings can be found at www.dextermi.gov or by calling the City Office at 734-426-8303.